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# Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

February 1, 1996

401 Main Street, Vancouver. V6A 2T7 (604) 665-2289

THEIR SPIRITS LIVE WITHIN US

For ALL

to remember the  
First Nations  
and other

Downtown Eastside  
Women  
killed

Downtown Eastside

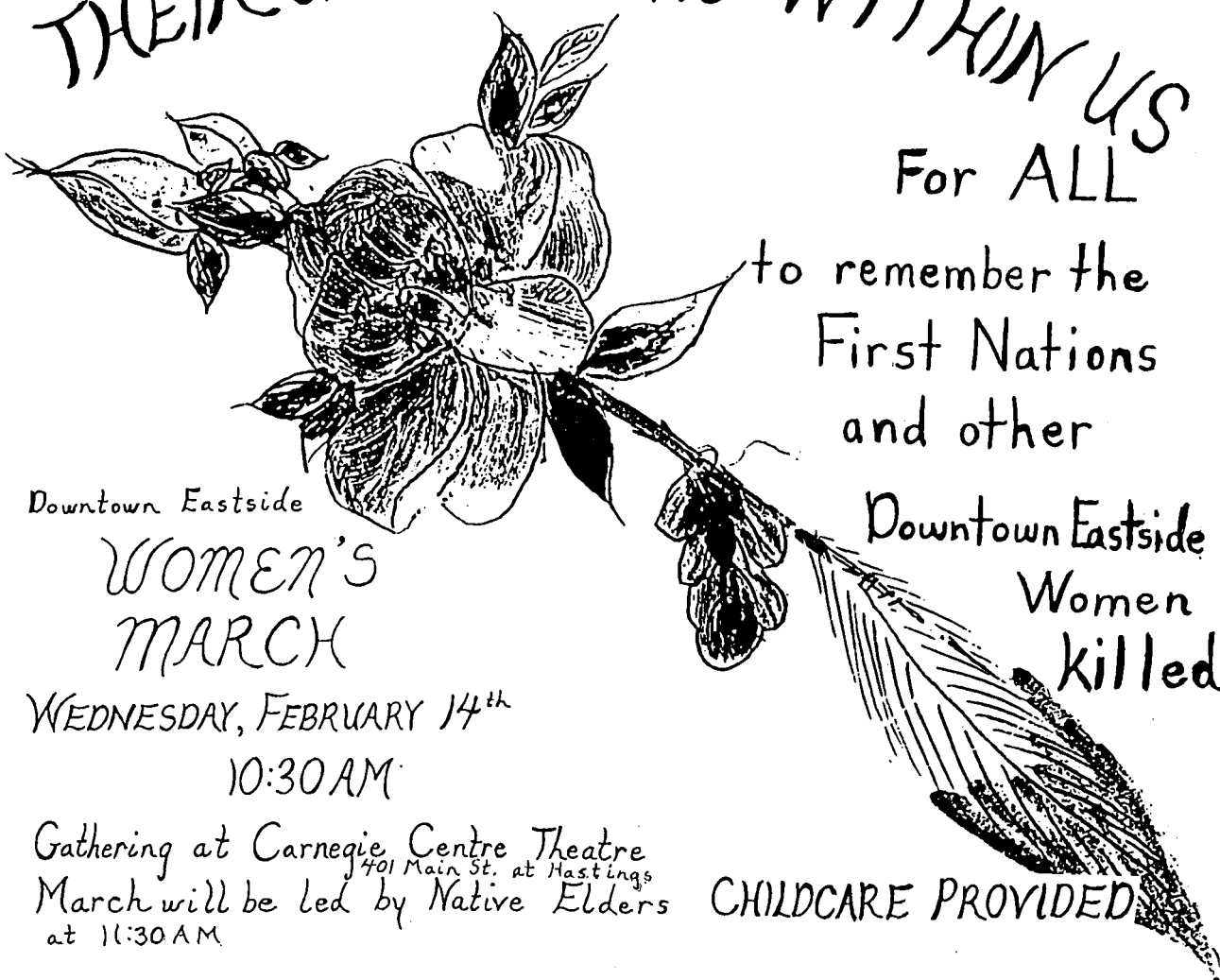
WOMEN'S  
MARCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>

10:30 AM

Gathering at Carnegie Centre Theatre  
401 Main St. at Hastings  
March will be led by Native Elders  
at 11:30 AM

CHILDCARE PROVIDED



## RETURN OF FRIENDS

On January 15 while sitting on the second floor, we received a pleasant surprise. George and Lillian Harrison came up to the table and sat down with us. Since they left Vancouver to live in Logan Lake, we did not expect to see them here.

George and Lillian were married on the Carnegie stairs with the beautiful stained glass windows in the background on December 20, 1987. It was a lovely wedding, and Wayne happened to be one of the musicians playing for the dance after a delicious roast beef dinner.

George and Lillian no longer live at Logan Lake, but now reside in Hamilton, Ont. They thought affording a trip out here was impossible; however, they won \$1,400 at bingo in two days.

George and Lillian always receive the

Carnegie Newsletter by mail, so they keep in touch with us that way. It is wonderful to renew old friendships.

IRENE SCHMIDT

(Editor's note; George and Lillian Harrison are two excellent examples of how the Learning Centre used to be a real community facility. George had not been able to develop full literacy skills growing up on the farm back in Ontario; he was a Downtown Eastside community person and came to the Learning Centre as an adult, in his 50's.

Lillian, also a community person, was a volunteer tutor; she helped him achieve his academic goals. They fell in love, got married, and will always carry fond memories of the Learning Centre from those days.)



## CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS:

*SPEAKING IN CHALKS WOODWARDS WINDOWS CENTRAL WATERFRONT VISIONS*



### PORTRAITS FROM THE INNER CITY:

PAINTINGS BY LYLA SMITH

JANUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 3, 1996

OPENING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 8:00 PM

**LAST THREE DAYS!**

PITT GALLERY

317 West Hastings Street

Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 1H6

Phone (604) 681-6740 Fax (604) 681-6741

Gallery hours noon to 5 pm Wed. to Sat.

Artist: Nick Andrew

Photo: Jim Vanson

The Pitt Gallery gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Canada Council, the Government of B.C. - Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, our members and volunteers, and Mondo Lisa Desserts Ltd.

# For Immediate Release

## WOMEN'S MARCH

FEBRUARY 14, 1996

### *"THEIR SPIRITS LIVE WITHIN US"*

*Women who died of violent deaths*

Women are being murdered...they lived in our Community the  
Downtown Eastside.

The Community, friends and family members will come together at  
Carnegie Centre 12 noon to walk down 100 Block Hastings.

Remembering our sisters for who they were: "Human Beings just like  
you or I." They too were mothers, daughters, and sisters.

Since 1992 most of the 118 violent deaths of street involved women have  
NOT BEEN solved. This is an indication of how the law today perceives  
working women more as statistic than a victim.

The killers are still out there...and the double standard of the law  
continues because of who these women were.

The fifth annual Valentine's Day March is a time to honor their spirits.

"Nearly everything we do in life is honored as what we do to  
survive. As long as it measures...within the lives of decency of  
society and government. People don't make the choice to sell  
themselves from birth or push drugs for a living or become a  
junkie.

These are tools that they are given on how to survive."

-30-

Contact: Margaret Prevost vice-president Carnegie Centre or Alicia

665-3005 (M.P)Home # 688-7512

Media briefing 10:45 a.m. in the Carnegie theatre.

## TALKING WOODWARD'S

If you had your choice, what kind of a housing project would you like to see at Woodward's?

Woodward's could be a lot more than just a big building containing hundreds of apartments. It could be a real community, with people from many different walks of life living in harmony and governing their common affairs together.

Woodward's would also fill some very deep needs for the long-time community of the Downtown Eastside. These include providing housing for:

- \* Residents who are the poorest in our neighborhood ("Deep core need")
- \* Singles and couples, in all age ranges
- \* Families, including those needing more than three bedrooms.
- \* Disabled, with appropriately-modified units.

As well, the stores that will be on the ground floor of the project should be oriented to the community. That means stores selling basic goods at affordable prices, not a string of high-end boutiques and franchises.

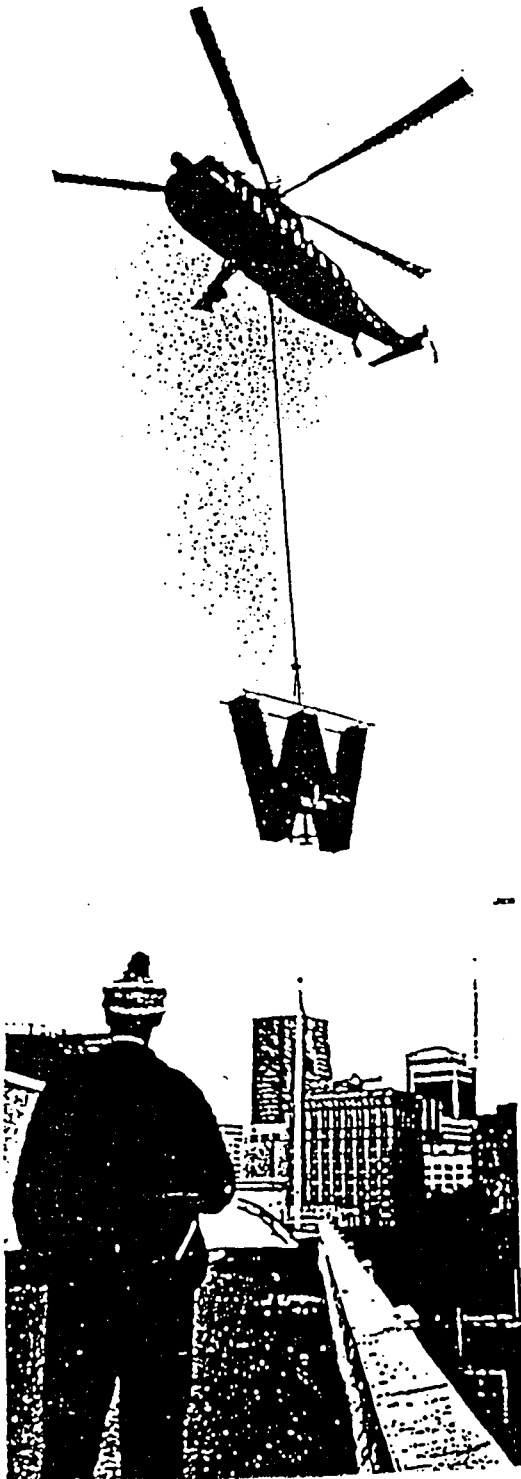
These are some of the principles that the community groups campaigning for the Woodward's project are working out. The various levels of government and the developer are starting to listen, but there is still a lot of work to be done on this, trying to figure out the best proportions of all the needs.

What has brought this much progress so far is the willingness of all the groups to work together for the common good. Representatives of several groups from a wide spectrum of the community have been actively participating in the process - from residents and housing groups to service providers and job creation projects.

This joint effort has helped us bring effective pressure for results:

- \* With a strong group presentation at City Hall, we secured \$1.1 million for the Woodward's project from funds allocated by the Concord Pacific development.

- \* We successfully insisted on the community being represented at the table in the current round of delicate high-level negotiations



between the province, the city and the developer. The community groups have appointed Jim Green, an experienced negotiator, to participate in the talks under guidelines laid down by the community.

Information about Woodward's is being spread through a variety of ways, and discussion is going on in the community about all these developments to make sure that the principles have community support.

The representatives who who are participating in the process have a special responsibility - to report back to their boards and memberships and get feedback. Don't hesitate to ask questions at your meetings. That's how representatives stay accountable.

Groups that do not wish to directly participate in the process will be informed in person or through printed reports, like this one in the Carnegie Newsletter, or other newsletters.

Workshops have already been held for

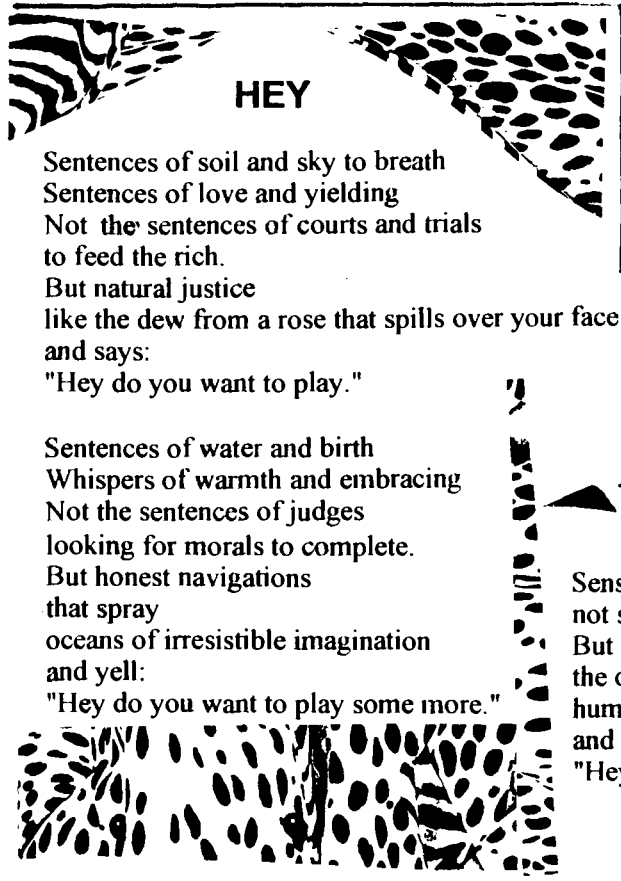
residents at three locations in the Downtown Eastside by the Carnegie Community Action Project on housing issues, including Woodward's. These were at the Dodson and Grand Union Hotels and at Abbott Mansions.

After the meeting at the Dodson, residents organized a mass letter write-in to City Hall to insist that Woodward's be developed as an INCLUSIVE project for all sectors of the community. More workshops are planned.

More information needs to get out and more discussion to take place, including at large public meetings. If you have any questions or suggestions, or want to participate more, contact the community action project, 689-0397, or drop by the office on the second floor of Carnegie.

We've gotten this far, folks. So let's hang together, and go the whole way.

Gerry Leprine



# HEY

Sentences of soil and sky to breath  
Sentences of love and yielding  
Not the sentences of courts and trials  
to feed the rich.  
But natural justice  
like the dew from a rose that spills over your face  
and says:  
"Hey do you want to play."

Sentences of water and birth  
Whispers of warmth and embracing  
Not the sentences of judges  
looking for morals to complete.  
But honest navigations  
that spray  
oceans of irresistible imagination  
and yell:  
"Hey do you want to play some more."

A Women's Time is reserved twice a week to accommodate the needs of women who would like to share their ideas, be one of the crowd, just to get together, and discuss issues of any sort. We serve free coffee, pastries and fruit in the seminar room on the 3rd floor.

## COME ONE, COME ALL

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

TIME: 1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Sensations of gods and philosophies  
not strict religions afraid of dreaming  
But erotic songs that celebrate  
the outcry of  
humans pressing together  
and singing:  
"Hey are you still reading."

Leigh Donohue



## PARK IT

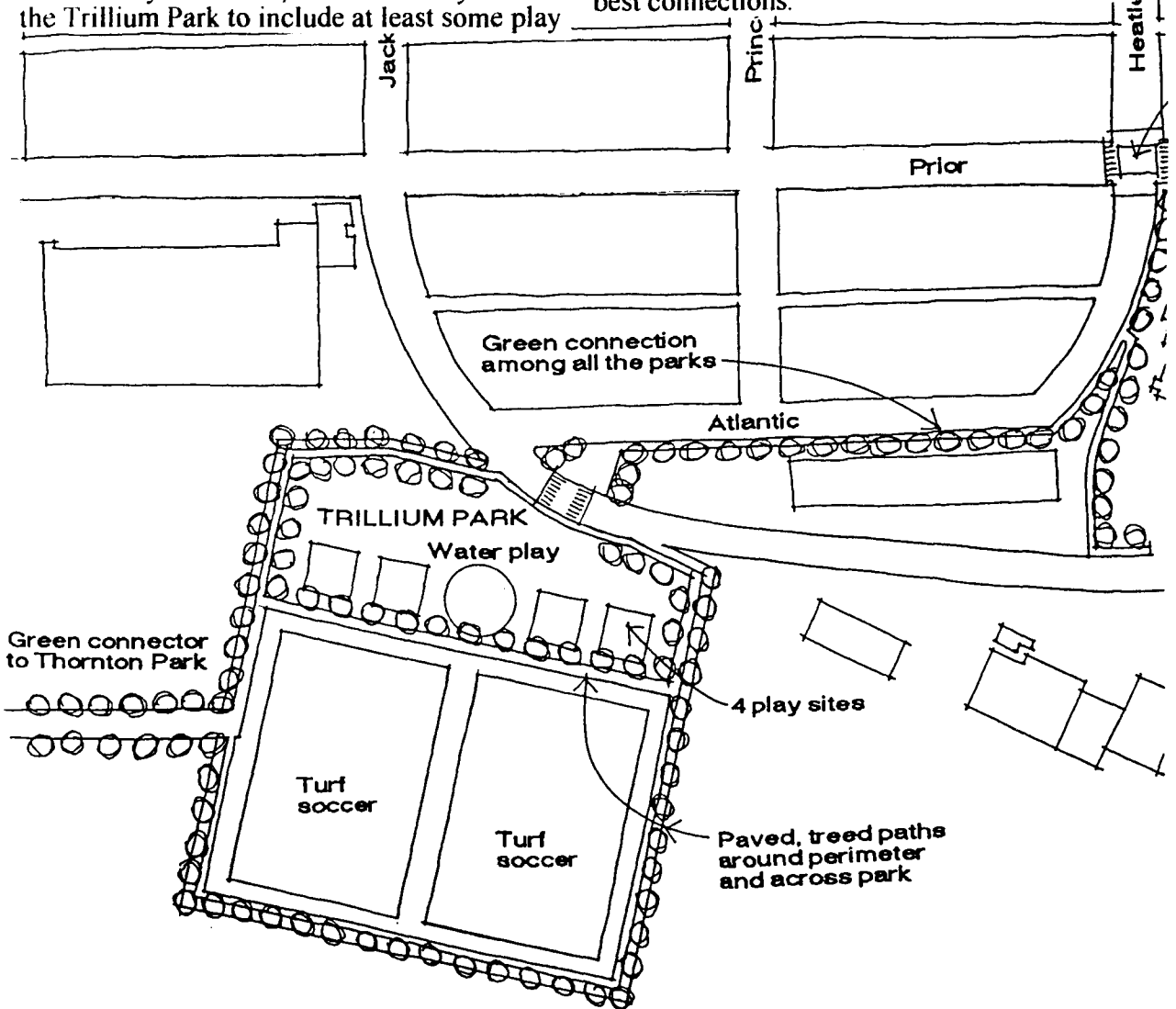
This is a drawing that shows the community's ideas for the planned new Trillium Park in the False Creek railway flats, where Jackson meets Malkin in Strathcona.

The land for Trillium Park was bought by the parks board without any consultation with the community. The money was supposed to go for community parks in Strathcona and the Downtown Eastside; instead, the parks board wants to build soccer fields on it.

As you can see, the community wants the Trillium Park to include at least some play

space for children and rest space for adults. It's only right, but the parks board staff doesn't want it. Their priority is to make it all soccer fields. Just look what they've done with Andy Livingstone Park near the Georgia Viaduct - a vast sea of plastic grass playing fields, without even asking the community if that's what we wanted. And Strathcona Park, which is dominated by soccer fields.

Now is the time to let the Vancouver Parks Board know that community parks are for the community, not for the special interest groups that can lobby the hardest and have the best connections.



## DEYAS SAYS THANKS

The 16th annual DEYAS Christmas Dinner for street youth was held on Dec. 19, 1995. This year's turnout was the biggest ever, with about 90 street youth in attendance, along with DEYAS staff and members of the Board of Directors.

The dinner was held at a local hotel whose staff went all-out to decorate and to cook and serve a beautiful turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Our Youthworker Supervisor, who is Latin American, arranged for a D.J. to come in and provide a variety of types of Latin American music. It was so lively that after dinner a lot of the kids (and workers) were up dancing.

One of our local police constables was "Santa," and after dinner each of the children was presented with a specially chosen gift. (Adidas sweatshirts were the popular choice this year.)

For many of them, this would be their only Christmas gift, and we were grateful to have the resources to make it a special one.

Each year as Christmas approaches, we at DEYAS begin to worry that we won't have enough money to provide the kind of celebration we want to give to these youth. And each year, the donations we receive are almost an exact match for our expenses. There's a miracle there somewhere!

And, of course, it is you. Because you have reached out in a spirit of caring beyond your own family and friends to those whom most of society would rather not acknowledge, you have touched many young lives in a special way.

You enabled them to have an evening solely devoted to them (attention they seldom get) during which they could forget the difficulties of their lives, put aside their addictions and simply have fun in a secure and happy atmosphere, as children their age should be doing.

On their behalf, and on behalf of the DEYAS staff and Board, we thank you - your kindness and generosity provided a wonderful celebration. And the thought of your caring and support is a great encouragement to the youth and to us in our work.

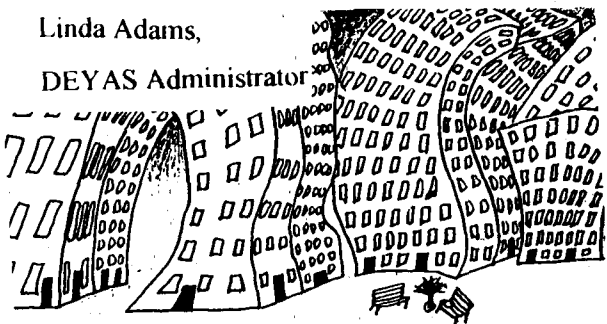
Thank you to:

Anarchy Inc.  
Sandra Schemmer  
Carnegie Community Centre Assoc.  
Variety Club  
Knights of Columbus  
E. Louise Brooks  
Ian Aikenhead  
Canada Safeway Ltd.  
Summit Motors  
Commercial Electronics  
Enid Cornish  
Traci Carracher  
David and Barbara Lemon  
Royal Canadian Legion Br. #142  
Carnegie Community Centre (seniors group)  
H.Y. Louie Co.  
Lucy Jean Johnston  
West Vancouver University Women's Club  
Barney Bentall and the band  
Iris M. Blampin  
J. Colpitts  
E. Vermaas  
Fleming Graphics  
Margaret Mitchell  
Barbara Morrison  
Ferry Building Gallery  
Evelyn Berger, and all the folks at Western  
Greenhouse Growers Co-Op Assoc.

Wishing you a New Year filled with blessings!

Linda Adams,

DEYAS Administrator



## SWEET SIXTEEN ANNIVERSARY

more seats, better lighting, and the offices are in front for better surveillance.

From the library I rushed back into the theatre to catch Bud Osborn reading poems from his new book Lonesome Monsters. The poetry was overwhelming as it was so powerful.

We had music from Latin America by a band called "Cuskapuni" on the 2nd floor from 3 to 5pm.

Carnegie's music program was live in the theatre at 4pm as Carnegie's Sweet 16 volunteers circulated with goodies from the kitchen. A special



On January 20 Carnegie celebrated its sixteenth anniversary as a community centre. At 1pm the ceremonial piper Kelly Watts appeared on the front steps. Later on Kelly marched the pipes into the theatre, much to the delight of the patrons and guests.

At 1:30pm Carnegie's own native drum group, Arrows to Freedom Junior warmed up the theatre with their drumming. The name Arrows To Freedom was derived from the fact that those taking part are free from drugs and alcohol.

At the Happy Birthday event starting at 2pm, there were a great number of speakers, including Nancy Chivario and Jenny Kwan, representing the City of Vancouver, Darlene Mazari, representing Mike Harcourt, Muggs Sigurgeirson, President of the Carnegie Community Centre Association, Eleanor Kelly, from the Vancouver Public Library, Carnegie branch, Tora, a DES resident, poet, artist and philosopher, and Sandy Cameron, who spoke about his new collection of Carnegie and Downtown Eastside stories "Fighting for Community." Last but not least, Rogers Community Cable Vision and the Arts and Entertainment Network made a special presentation of a colored television and VCR to the Carnegie Library.

At 3pm I had to rush into the library to cut the ribbon to open our newlyrenovated library and to take the first book out. The library has fifteen



huge Carnegie cake complete with dome was enjoyed by a great number of people.

Basile and I then went up to the 3rd floor where we discovered the Learning Centre was having a 4 hour Story Book writing for anyone who wished to take part. Earlier in the day Basile Deneau had said a special prayer in his native Shuswap language to bless the theatre.





The "Count on Country" band delighted everyone when they started playing for our dance at 7pm. Buddy and Jackie used to play at Carnegie regularly many years ago. Their daughter Amanda celebrated her sixteenth birthday on our anniversary and the kitchen volunteers and staff made a special Sweet 16 birthday cake for her. Amanda has grown up to be such a beautiful young lady and shall always be a special part of Carnegie.

I spent a great deal of time on the dance

floor. It was hard to sit down when Basile was the life of the party.

I apologize if I left anyone out, as every person who enters the building is important. Thanks to the City of Vancouver, the Province of B.C., the Vancouver foundation and the Carnegie Community Centre for funding our recent renovations and furnishings. Thanks to Rogers and the A & E Network for their contributions to our centre. This particular day was truly "the mother of all events."

Irene Schmidt



carnegie  
centre

401 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6A 2T7 (604) 665-2220

## SANDY SAYS

January 22, 1996

To All Volunteers,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your contribution as a volunteer. As you are well aware, Carnegie depends on its volunteers and at times cannot function without them.

Carnegie Centre has a core group of approximately 350 volunteers who contribute around 5,600 hours per month. It is truly amazing

the extent our volunteers go through, just to help others or themselves.

In 1995, volunteers contributed 62,865 hours, and because of your efforts and valuable time, Carnegie has been able to continue low cost/free programs accessible to the public.

The success of the Carnegie Community Centre Volunteer Program success is due to volunteers like yourself. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you.

With sincere thanks,

Sandy MacKeigan,  
Volunteer Coordinator

## HOLIER THAN THOU

"The practical powers of our modern society have tried to detach or completely hide themselves in self-righteous moral violence."  
SOCIETY OF THE SPECTACLE, Guy Debord.



Up, down, hey man do you wanna get looped, Get a buzz, straight lines, do the sleeper? Is this a description of the latest Yo Yo craze to stalk North American consumers?

It seems that what was contained on the 100-block of Hastings is now contained on the 200 and 300-block as well.

But never fear, we can blame the drug expansion on ethnic groups. First it was the bikers, then it was the Chinese and Vietnamese gangs, then it was the dreaded Russians from hell, and now it's the Spanish.

Blaming ethnic groups has always been the tolerant Canadian way. Let's not think about the Vince Cane report and its recommendation (whatever happened to him?). Instead let's swill gallons of putrid draft beer in smelly hotel bars where residents are allowed to have credit if they are on assistance.

Let's preach in a holier-than-thou attitude that we are different from them, and therefore are premitted to bad-mouth people in pain. We are allowed to be self-righteous but tolerant Canadians. We are allowed to dismiss the death of anyone who OD's, especially if we don't know them.

We are morally and legally justified to talk about safety and community issues when they condemn the behavior of evil or stupid or ugly or violent drug addicts in our midst.

Ask yourself, who allows you to do this????

And what about our society, a society that will help you destroy yourself, especially if you're poor or disadvantaged. Have we taken the Vince

Cane report to heart by pushing everyone off the streets and into hotels where they can shoot up or pass out, beat up, terrorize themselves or others when they need a fix?

Who's walking the dog here? What do you think? Who are the real Yo Yo's in our society? Should I say "this society," or "our society?" What do you think?

What can we do to maintain the safety of everyone involved? Can we do anything without being scared off, or terrified? I think so! But first we have to realize that people who sell drugs and people who consume them are no different than you or me, and make sure that the next time you hear someone who frequents beer parlors trying to convince you that they are somehow better and justified in their utter condemnation of other human beings, remind yourself of where that speech is salivating from.

Addiction is addiction, and no matter what kind of Yo Yo you choose to play with, that will always be the case. We need to help each other because it doesn't look like anyone else will.

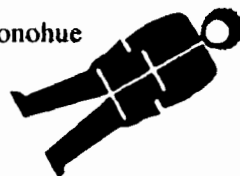
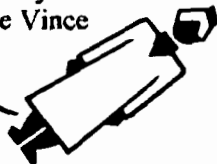
Would you steal for food or clothing, would you condemn someone for stealing, or would you find out what they need and help them? It's well past the time that we need to place drug addiction under the purview of the Health Ministry and forcefully pull it away from the Criminal Code.

We need to continue finding ways for everyone to feel safe in their neighborhood. We have to stop punishing addictive behavior and do more to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Maybe next time you see someone on the street that's in need you will stop or smile and say .....

The next time you hear police officers say their hands are tied, ask them where they as individuals or members of a very strong union stand on the Vince Cane recommendations.

Leigh Donohue



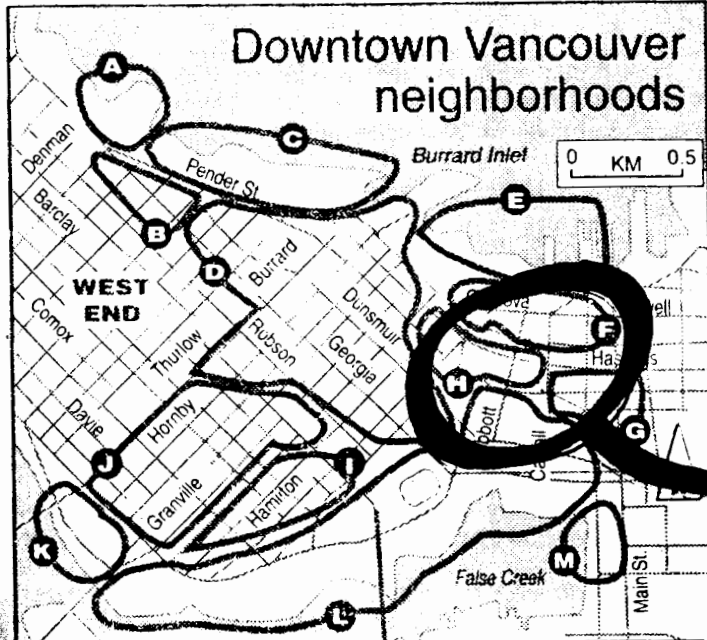


# Newsletter of the Carnegie Community Action Project

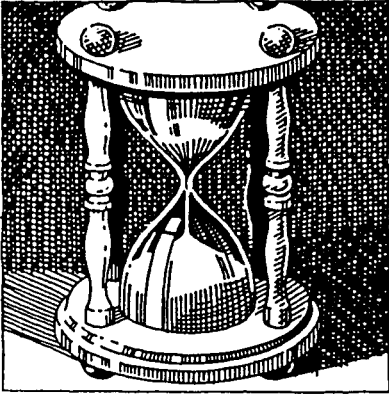
January 1996

*Inside:*

What people have been saying at coffee table meetings at the "New" Dodson Hotel, the Grand Union Hotel, and the Abbott Mansions.



Help stake a claim to  
this neighbourhood!  
Call CAP at 689-0397  
or come see us at the  
Carnegie Office, 2nd floor.



## The Future

“What does the future hold for people who are being forced out of their own neighbourhood because they can’t afford \$100,000 for an apartment...?”

“I want to live in low-rental.”

“One day they’re gonna come in here with a bunch of army trucks and ship us all out to the sticks like P.O.W.’s.”

“I’m gonna move to somewhere about thirty blocks away and take the bus in.”

“They’re gonna scatter this neighbourhood into the suburbs.”

“The City should build more housing instead of putting so much money into fancy maps.”

“How much longer with this place be around? These old places won’t be standing for much longer. They are not in very good shape.”

*“So what should we do to get more housing?”*

*“We should all set up non-profits and get some land.”*

Someone suggested that people buy up a bunch of old buildings and hire and train local people to renovate them so they could actually live in them afterwards, as low rental housing. Someone mentioned that this was started in Edmonton, in the Boyle Macauley area. If Ralph Klein can do it, so can we (ha, ha).

“A person needs more than just a job—you want a job where you are doing something, where you feel productive.”



## Speaking Out

A lot of people feel it is difficult to speak out against developments. When asked what he could do to protect his neighbourhood, one person simply said, “I cannot express myself. I need a lawyer.”

*Someone else said that in a recent survey, people identified death as their second greatest fear. Number one was public speaking.*

# Safety

Safety in the hotels and on the streets is always a major concern. Again and again, people said that they want to live in a place where you don't have to be afraid to go to the bathroom at night.

It was mentioned that hotel managers are unwilling to call 911 when there is a problem in the building. Managers say, "Too many police calls will effect our fire license."

*The hotels all have major security problems: desk clerks that let anybody in; first floor windows that are broken; front doors that everybody and their cousins have keys to; back doors that are accessible from neighbouring hotels.... Etc. Etc.*

*Can you count on your neighbours? One person, who was attacked recently in the hallway of his hotel, said: "I've done a lot for everybody in this hotel but there wasn't one person who opened their doors in that hallway to help me."*

Everyone felt that the Neighbourhood Police Office doesn't help at all, but most people don't report crimes to the police.

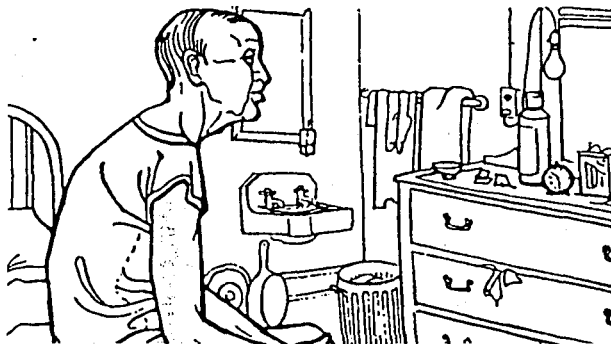
*"We police ourselves."*

*"An eye for an eye never works. The police, they just get to eat more donuts while you guys beat on each other. They should protect you—that's what they get paid for."*

## What is a Home??

The following article was written in a hotel meeting and phoned in to **The Province's**

*Gripe Line:*



*"I understand that Brad Holmes has approached the City to construct a new SRO building in the Downtown Eastside. He would get concessions from the City for building "core income housing" --greater density, higher zoning. My peeve is: when did SRO's become social housing? Doesn't housing mean a home? Or does it mean a hotel room? What does SRO stand for? It stands for Skid Row Occupancy."*

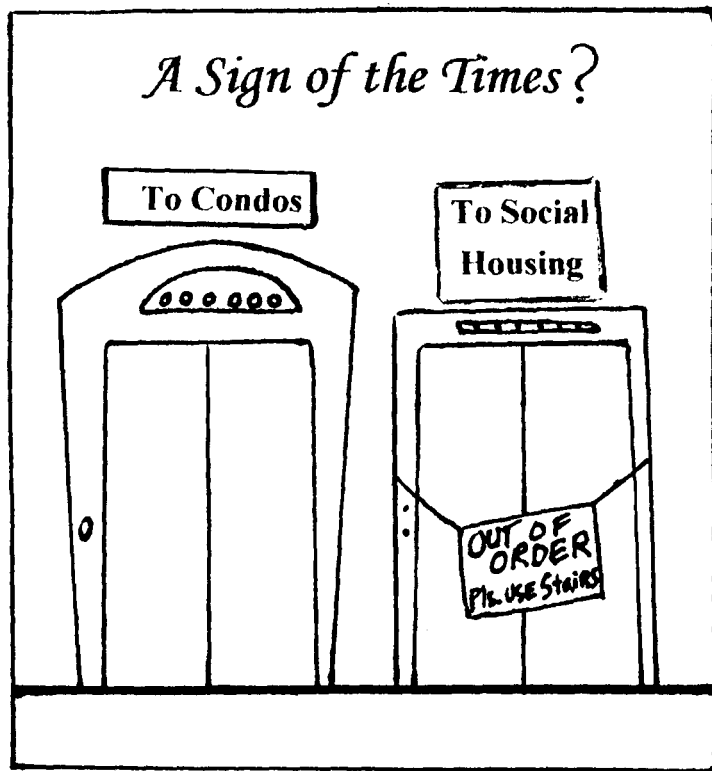
## Woodwards Update

A lot of people CAP talked with didn't think there was a chance in Hell for social housing in Woodward. Well --things are looking up. As you probably know by now, Harcourt declared in November that he was committed to one-third social housing in Woodward. The Provincial government, the City, and the owner have been in fast-track negotiations to make it happen before Harcourt steps down in February. To these three have now been added a fourth: Jim Green to represent the Downtown Eastside community. Looks like the other three guys finally learned how to count.

In December, Downtown Eastside community groups and residents successfully lobbied the City to put \$1.1 million into Woodward. The developers of International Village paid that money to the City to get out of building social housing. The City could have just sucked the cash up into its general coffers and that would have been the last this neighbourhood ever saw of it. But thanks to the people who spoke out at City Hall (including a stack of letters from residents of the Dodson Hotel) this money is now going to Woodward.

**The big question now is: what will Woodward look like? Will it be a segregated community, with a condo-fortress on one end and social housing on the other? Or will it be an integrated community under common governance?**

The ongoing negotiations need all the support you can offer. If you want to know more, contact CAP: 689-0397 in the Carnegie Office (2nd floor).



## Carnegie Community Centre - part 2



### The Power Of Definition And The Politics Of Greed And Fear

(continued from last Carnegie Newsletter)

The vision of a "white" British Columbia that was so prevalent in the province's history from 1871 to 1945 was based on a 19th century understanding of "race" that gave arbitrary racial identities to select groups of people on the basis of supposed genetic differences.

That understanding is wrong. We now know that there are few genetic characteristics to be found in the population of England that are not found in similar proportions in Zaire or China (Vancouver's Chinatown - Racial Discourse in Canada, 1875-1980, by Kay J. Anderson, p.12).

Scientists tell us that race is primarily defined by skin colour, a relatively superficial genetic trait. About 75% of the genes in every human being in the world are identical. Only 25% of genes vary from person to person, and this variation would be present even if people were closely related. Since most of the diversity between human beings exists within so-called races, the racial categories of "white," "black," or "brown" make no sense, genetically speaking (When racial categories make no sense, by Dan Gardner, Globe & Mail, Oct.21/95).

Race does have a cultural and social reality, however, but that reality can be understood, and social harmony achieved, by

education and enlightened social policy. Races are not fundamentally different, and the characteristics of race change as history and social conditions change.

Until 1947 white people in B.C. used the 19th century concept of race to marginalize people of colour, including those of First Nations, Chinese, Japanese, and East Indian background.

Often people of colour were seen as inferior to whites, and Peter Berger wrote in his book "Invitation to Sociology" that "the worst thing that can happen to members of a



minority group is to become what the prejudiced image of them says that they are."

The powerful always demean and humiliate those whom they plan to oppress. We know that in the Downtown Eastside.

In the early days of British Columbia, the dominant, white power structure defined people of colour in the context of European imperial arrogance. Europeans (the West) were civilized; others (the East) were uncivilized. Europeans were masters; others were servants. Europeans were Christian; others were heathen. Europeans were white; others were black or brown.

Race was an effective, unifying concept for European global dominance. Racial ideology was used by white communities whose members, from all classes, supported it for the definition and

privilege it gave them. They were the insiders. The others (people of colour) were the outsiders (Kay J. Anderson, p.25).

Hitler and the holocaust were not aberrations. They were the logical conclusion of five hundred years of European empire building in which other peoples were seen as expendable. After World War Two, the citizens of the industrial nations were so shocked by the atrocities committed by the Nazis in the name of "race" that they abolished most - but not all - forms of officially sanctioned discrimination. In British Columbia, First Nations people, and citizens of Chinese and East Indian background were allowed to vote in 1947. Canadians of Japanese background were allowed to vote, and to return to the west coast, in 1949.

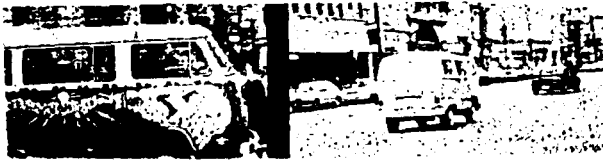
We in the Downtown Eastside know that what people hold in common is more important than their differences. Are we not human beings and citizens together? Don't we want what most ordinary people in the

world want - respect, meaningful work, decent income, friends, a healthy community and environment, and an opportunity for us and our children to live fulfilling lives?

In the Canadian context this dream is called democracy, and it extols the values of liberty, equality, and community. It demands citizens who can make decisions for the common good, and an education system that nurtures citizenship.

Danny Korica, a respected Carnegie Board Member who died in 1991, said it this way, "I have come to believe that we... must help each other more than we do... We are put down by federal, provincial, and city governments as winos and skid road people. To beat that we should stick together, respect each other, fight for one another. Organized in this way, we can prove to all of them that we are people like them, not the people they categorize us to be."

Sandy Cameron  
to be continued



## IN THE DUMPSTER

Greetings fellow bidders and binnettes. Mr. McBinner hasn't done much binning due to the cold weather. Last week, I was able to get \$30 in bottles at UBC. Still, all my Asian friends seem to do OK. Right on.

I would like to welcome Shane from "Shane's World," a store that sells music and computer equipment, to the Downtown Eastside. Drop in and say hi. He's at 16 West Hastings.

United We Can is holding a Valentine's Day celebration on Feb. 14. Help us clean up our act by cleaning the alleys.

Fearless leader (Ken Lyotier) says we can bring in up to \$5 in beverage containers not now accepted in B.C. depots at the rate of ten cents per

liter and under, and 20 cents over one liter. Please remember only max of \$5.00. Come early as there are limited funds.

Also, rakes, shovels etc. will be needed for the big cleanup. If you can donate at all, please come to U.W.C at 52 East Cordova. They are also looking for candy hearts, flowers and Valentine articles.

The film industry is funding all this, so please respect them in the future. Also, please show respect when binning. People are still disposing of Xmas trees, so please show patience, and don't dump them in alleys, like I saw one idiot do.

May The Bins Be With You.

Mr. McBinner



## CAN WE GET SOME HELP HERE?

To the point that everyone is taking a stab at welfare clients: taking pictures in the 100-block East Hastings is reality to some, but there are people who are collecting welfare throughout all of Vancouver.

What some people don't understand is that some of those on welfare have a real serious problem with "Addiction." I make no excuses for anyone, but this is reality.

What Joy MacPhail needs to do is address this issue, then work with those who are capable of getting out into the workforce.

Help those who have their hands out. Give them the support that is needed to help them clean up, get living skills, education and training; then, slowly move them into a job they have trained for.

Education is one of the biggest concerns for welfare clients. Out of the first 12 grades, some have only reached grade 4-level, and the highest is possibly grade ten.

In today's world, there are many advances in the workplace, such as computer-run programs. Then we have the metric system in place. Then we have the cost of going to school. For First Nations people, some don't get help from their Band because they don't live on the reserve.

So then we have MSS offering job training. What a joke! This will only help those who have some educational skills. If you can't read and understand what it is they want you do on the test, one feels like a fool and maybe even worse.

TO SURVIVE IS TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE!  
TO SURVIVE, ONE NEEDS AN EXTRA HELPING HAND.

Life can only happen if given a chance to better one's self.

M.P.



jacko in weightlessness

on enquirer pages you look so thin  
almost as thin as myriad street  
people

on enquirer pages you look so wan  
wishes best for ultra-creative  
people

like you in health better  
do

but what of those on the streets  
who don't have your rush-to-1st-class  
treatment advantages and  
almost unlimited  
riches?

What oh what, jacko, do THEY do?

ja douglas

Just  
A betu

Offerings from  
Nellie McClung  
Tora  
Anita Stevens  
And friends

Thursday, Feb. 1, 8 PM-11PM  
LaQuena, 1111 Commercial  
Just a Donation

If you're trying to learn to love, start with  
something easy - "CHILDREN."

Joe Paul

## TO GET ALONG, SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA GO ALONG

So me and my main man Ritchie are heading down Jamaica Avenue for the movies, and all of a sudden I remember I left my money in my dresser drawer.

"Hey man, gotta go home," I say.

"Oh man, what a drag, we just left there," says Ritchie.

"No money, no flicks, you dig it, man?"

So we run back up the street to the house. When I get inside, I can smell cigarette smoke. Now I know my parents aren't home, so I think, hey, what the hey!

Just then I hear the door slam in the bathroom.

"Hey, who's in there?"

No answer.

I hear scraping noises from inside. I hear the toilet flush. I hear the bathroom window going up.

"Hey, man, they're busting out the window," says my man Ritchie.

"Hey, man, maintain your cool," I say. I got a feeling - gotsta be my little sister. Now I yell through the door, "Hey, Bratface, you come outta there."

"No," she bleats.

"You're caught and caught good, Bratface. You think when nobody's home you can do what you want? Come out now or I'm telling."

I can't believe it how the kids of today think they got the right to do everything we do. It's a good thing there are still big brothers around to keep the standards.

Now my man Ritchie chimes in:

"Your ass is grass, kid, and I'm the lawnmower."

I can hear snuffling back there. Then whispering.

"Who you talking to, Bratface?"

"Nobody...Patti."

Ritchie: "Patti, your ass is grass, too."

I rattle the doorknob. "Open up or I'm going to bust it down."

Now Patti butts in. "Why don't you leave us alone? You think you're so cool. You smoke. Why can't we?"

Now I'm really getting choked. "You're asking for it. When they find out, you're grounded for a year."

Bratface is really blubbering. At first, I can't make out what she's saying, then I hear.

"I didn't tell on you...(sniffle, sniffle)...when you...(sniffle, sniffle)...sneaked the car out for a ride (wah!)."

I look at my man Ritchie. I didn't know she knew about the car. It was just to go cruising past the diner. These kids of today are turning out to be little spies.

Me and Ritchie step back into the kitchen.

I'm whispering, "Hey, man, this could be bad. If I rat on her, she could rat on me. Then MY ass would be grass."

Ritchie sees the point. "It's a drag, man. Their ass was grass, we had em right where we wanted em."

Back to the bathroom door. "Okay, Bratface. Today is your lucky day. You behave yourself and don't step outta line, and I'm gonna forget about this for now. But just to show how you appreciate it, you take out the garbage for me for a week."

I could hear the sniffle of gratitude right through the door.

So I grab my money and we split.

"You know, man," says Ritchie. "I hate it when they forget their place. It's a good thing for her you got such a big heart, or her ass woulda been grass for sure, dig it, man?."

I'm feeling pretty mellow after doing her such a big favor.

"You said it, man," I tell him, lighting up a Lucky.

Hey-Bob-Aree-Bob

Revolution exists when the oppressed recognize the source of their oppression, and unite together as one revolutionary body to right the wrongs.

HELP CLEAN UP DEMOCRACY

DEFICIT  
- wealthholders paying no tax  
= NO DEBT

WORKERS ARE MORE IM-  
PORTANT TO SOCIETY  
THAN

STOCKHOLDERS

Contrary to ATRT who are laying off 17,000 workers to increase dividends.

(USA)

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.

GARRY GUST 1996

CANADIAN  
GOVERNMENT

ELITIST  
TITTLIE BAG

CORPORATE  
TAX  
REFERRALS

LOOP-  
HOLES

ENTERTAINMENT  
EXPENSE  
EXEM-  
PTIONS

YE OLDE  
TAX  
BARREL

# Murders and ODs killed 14 women in one family

MIA STAINSBY  
Vancouver Sun

**F**red Arrance has little time for conceits like coincidence or irony and maybe it's because, in his life, they're more like cruel jokes.

In this case, Arrance is talking about the 14 dead women in his own family; it's the day after the national day of mourning for 14 women killed in the 1989 Montreal Massacre.

The dead in his family were his sisters and cousins and they, too, were all young women. They all died horrible deaths, all in the last 20 years.

But that is where the similarity ends. His relatives lived in the rougher area of Vancouver. Few people know about their deaths and few care. They were native Indians and most were prostitutes, in a place where compassion cuts off.

That many of their childhoods rival the worst in any Gove Report is not part of the public's perception of who and what they are. That they do not choose this anti-life is not well understood.

Arrance lists the women who died in his family: "One of my cousins jumped out of a window at the New World Hotel. Another was found in Langley with a cross-bow arrow through her. Another was found in Stanley Park, raped and beaten beyond recognition. Another was found at Four Sisters housing, beaten beyond recognition. Another was found behind the Marr Hotel, beaten beyond recognition. One was found in a room; someone hung her from a



MEAN STREETS: Constable Dave Dixon and Carnegie Centre vice-president Margaret Prevost in the alleys of the Downtown Eastside. GLENN BAGLO/VANCOUVER SUN

pipe. Someone killed her. Another was found with a guy who gave her a bunch of pills and booze. She died from them. A couple of them got raped and killed. Another was found behind the Brandiz Hotel with her head cut off."

The rest, he says, died of drug overdoses. "There is so much hurt, so much sorrow, so many sad people here."

Const. Dave Dixon, a Vancouver police liaison officer in the area and a 16-year veteran of the neighborhood, says the public has no idea about the lives of street-involved women in the Downtown Eastside.

"They run away from home at an early age, they have no job skills, they have no money, no place to stay and their self-esteem is virtually nil. Most people feel they're out there because they want to be out there. I say none want to be."

Out of his pain and grief, Arrance helped to start WAND, the West Coast

Aboriginal Network of the Disabled. "We have to recognize that being abused is a disability," he says. The group's goal is to help heal these women at risk. While there is grief to spare, there's little money trickling down for their specific needs, he says.

Arrance, 41, is also one of the organizers for an annual march through

violently.

This year, 150 women were interviewed for the recently-published report *Assessing the Violence Against Street-Involved Women In The Downtown Eastside/Strathcona Community*. It was published by a group of women's agencies in the area.

"I didn't start working until I was 17," said one woman interviewed. "When I was six, my auntie sold me for \$5 a day to a dirty old man, though. Then my cousins did it. It never stopped."

Another woman said that almost all the female members of her family worked the streets or are still working, and still another said: "My stepfather raped me. Every time he did, he gave me a cigarette burn. He told me that it was to remind me of my first love."

According to the report, about 73 per cent worked in the sex trade before their 18th birthday, citing economic reasons for their involvement.

"My mother," said one, "was a junkie and a prostitute. She put me on the street when I was 12 so I could help her pay the rent."

Ninety-nine per cent of these women were victims of violence and almost all experienced multiple forms of violence — they had been beaten by a customer, boyfriend, pimp or police, the report said. They had been sexually assaulted, dumped by a customer, assaulted with knives, guns or other weapons; they had been robbed, strangled, dragged by a car or held against their will. About 73 per cent had been victims of violence in the six months previous to the interview.

One recalled being physically assaulted and choked by a man. "He wanted to kill me and then have sex with me when I was dead," she said.

The report on violence estimated about 500 women are in the sex trade in the Downtown Eastside/Strathcona area. Dixon puts it at about 300.

Most, he says, are addicted to drugs, entrenching them as prostitutes. Their children are generally apprehended at birth, following a generational pattern. "Some have to stand out there 24 hours a day, three, four, five days without sleep," Dixon says.

"I catch 11-year-old kids performing sex on a guy. I had one little 10-year-old kid out there who stole a deadbolt from a local hardware store to put on her

bedroom door because she was sick of her mother's boyfriends abusing her — she had a knock-down, drag out fight with one and her mother threw her out on the streets and she's been there ever since."

Another's mother brought home tricks for her when she was 10. Another mother would charge customers an extra \$5 to fondle her daughter. And in another case, a son would jump the guy and rob him. "These guys aren't going to phone the police because he'll be caught with a 10-year-old," says Dixon.

And if anything surprises and amazes him, it is the resilience of these street-trenched women.

"They all have this incredible survival instinct, despite everything they've been through, they keep plugging away. They are working out there, trying to survive, day after day.

"I used to give this spiel to the young working girls, telling them about the dangers," he says. "Then it dawned on me. I can't scare these girls. They have come from horrible homes, they've been subjected to beatings, to sexual abuse and telling them they might get beaten is no big deal. I realized all I can do is be there for them when they do get beaten up."

"They all know my pager number and they have it memorized," he says. "I get



MEMORIAL: Fred Arrance would like to see a totem pole erected at Crab Park in memory of women who died on the streets

calls daily on my pager after they've gotten beaten up or harassed. The bad tricks seem to come out here. There are some sick people out there. When you go out the back alley from Gore St., you can see bumper to bumper traffic. It's like a freeway of guys asking where the young girls are. These are not scungey guys; they are well-dressed, middle-class guys with babyseats in the back."

In the past two years, Dixon has been to 12 funerals for street involved women. "Mostly OD's," he says.

One thing that Arrance would like to see is a totem pole, erected at Crab

Park, for all these women who are victims of violence. Arrance says: "My sisters and cousins all died because no one really knew what was happening and there was no way out for them.

"We live in the biggest reserve in Canada, but there is no chief, no leader," he says, referring to the Downtown Eastside.

Even native organizations, he says, ignore their needs. "The bottom line comes down to funding," he says. "It doesn't get down to our grassroots level and what we need are more culturally appropriate programs and traditional native healing to give people an alternative to the streets."

## CALLING ALL WITNESSES

(This is an open letter about the attack on Carl Reinboth by security personnel at the 180 Main Street MSS office on Nov. 22, 1995.

### "MIGHT" MAKES "RIGHT" IN DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE MSS OFFICE

I regret that you would order your personnel to tackle, assault and attempt to interfere with the peaceful freewill of an unarmed person. Ultimately, the director of that office is accountable. So is Joy MacPhail. This will come back on you, three times over.

We, the people, see from your actions that we can't even speak freely, and that our movements are constantly surveyed and judged.

We don't want that at all. STOP!

Why don't you all do your jobs well, and leave us alone? An MSS office should be the last place to get assaulted in. Or is assault of people part of your mandate?

I call upon people to assist Carl in any way, especially witnesses, and to keep an ear open as to who may have seen anything and is not telling him.

Write letters to express how you feel about this outrageous, dishonourable, cowardly act. Or phone that office, 660-2941, or Joy MacPhail's office, 251-5582.

You, sir or madame, or your kids, may be next.

Name withheld with good reason

**DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday - Friday, 10a.m. - 6p.m.**

**NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 9a.m. - 8p.m. every day**

**Needle Exchange Van - on the street every night, 6p.m.-2a.m.**

**(except Mondays, 6p.m.-midnight)**

1995 DONATIONS

Paula R. -\$20	Diane M. -\$25
Cecile C. -\$12	Libby D. -\$25
Wm. B. -\$25	Nancy H. -\$16
Lillian H. -\$40	Lisa E. -\$8
Sonya S. -\$200	Lorne T. -\$50
Etienne S. -\$15	Mel L. -\$20
A. Withers -\$20	Sara D. -\$16
Rositch -\$16	Colleen E. -\$16
Kettle F.S. -\$16	Bruce J. -\$30
Hazel M. -\$16	Bill S. -\$2
Joy T. -\$20	Ray -\$12
Bea F. -\$30	Diane M. -\$20
Bruce -\$4	Jerome -\$2
Francis -\$50	CEEDS -\$50
Anonymous -\$165.75	



**THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION**

**Articles represent the views of individual  
contributors and not of the Association.**

**Submission Deadline  
for the next issue:  
Monday Feb. 12**

## **NEED HELP?**

**The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association  
can help you with:**

- ✓ any welfare problem
- ✓ information on legal rights
- ✓ disputes with landlords
- ✓ unsafe living conditions
- ✓ income tax
- ✓ UIC problems
- ✓ finding housing
- ✓ opening a bank account

**Come into the Dera office at 9 East Hastings St.  
or phone us at 682-0931.**



**DERA HAS BEEN SERVING  
THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE  
FOR 21 YEARS.**

# CASTE SYSTEM TRANSCENDED

"Subversive" Di  
"Dangerous" Di  
Royal chiefs Not Amused  
Pomp and Circumstance abused.

Yet all she wants to do is help  
the dying homeless unfortunate.  
Is this so very negative?  
We democrats think not.

So let this lovely lady give  
self to the downtrodden who live  
while you prehistoric royal thugs  
cycle on alone above the hugs.

Let this decent human lady be  
for her efforts toward charity  
may somehow cancel out your  
centuries of elitist out-of-touch

stupor.

ja douglas



## CITY HALL AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATES FAILED ME/US

Hello,

This past summer of '95, the Carnegie Community Centre was renovated. The monies involved were well over half a million dollars (Cdn.), no small sum, even in today's dollars.

Hearing the sound of silence can often be deafening, perhaps even blinding. Such was the case on the Carnegie renovation.

How was it that not one advocate, community leader, spokesman, including the mayor and councilwoman, sighed an utterance asking that perhaps the monies involved would include the hiring of local residents of the Downtown Eastside for semi-skilled/unskilled labor? Such was not the case.

Saying that the tendering process and possible union difficulties were out of their hands is not good enough. Rules are written, bent, broken, even erased. Certainly if one had taken the time, these very same rules could have become elastic to accomodate employment for those living in the community.

No one spoke, to my knowledge. Indeed, if any verbal volley was shot, it most surely was a dud. Being a resident, the people who should

champion their cause failed me utterly.

Special circumstances dictate special rules. To make it clear, I do not advocate union-busting. But when something is wrong, it can indeed become iniquitous by denying one fair employment, if such was the case.

The work done on Carnegie is for all intents done too late to accomodate any possible hiring. It is not enough to protest, hold hands around a building, paint on glass windows and scream at the powers that be.

There must be that most basic right for many in their community, that being employment. A simple posting of Jobs Available, no million dollar draft proposal to groom potential employees, only to find that your grooming potential failed to impress a Personnel manager, making a mockery of all the time invested, only to find your potential was not adequately groomed.

Just a large eye-catching sign saying, Jobs Available.

Make no mistake, there exists within this community the labor to fill any semi-skilled or unskilled position. Leaders of the community - do not let your silence speak acquiescence to city hall or any agency that could and should make jobs available in this community.

Dennis A. Maurice

## JAMIE LEE HAMILTON RUNNING FOR COUNCIL



For more information, you can phone  
Jamie at 254-6442.

A Downtown Eastside activist will be challenging stereotypes and the entrenched power at city hall during the 1996 civic elections.

Jamie Lee Hamilton, 40, will be seeking a seat on Vancouver city council next fall, running on the issues of human rights and respect for all the city's neighborhoods.

"The Non-Partisan Association's grip on city council is not healthy," the Vancouver born-and-raised Jamie says.

"We need diverse voices on city council. And we have to treat people with respect when they come before the city with the interests of their neighborhood.

"The NPA has been the worst council in many years."

Jamie is the second aboriginal person to run for council in Vancouver, and the first transexual.

She has been active in city-wide politics for many years, and in her neighborhood, the Downtown Eastside. Jamie is the founder of FATE, the Foundation for the Advancement of Transgender Equality, which provides support services and public education and awareness around transgender issues.

A former sex trade worker, she is now a business person as owner/operator of Rainbow's End boutique at 573 East Hastings (near Dunlevy).

Facing prejudice as a transexual person and having a deep commitment to progressive social change are key factors motivating Jamie to run for city council.

"We need diverse voices on city council. And we need community participation in making the decisions that affect our city," she says.

Jamie hopes to encourage other "fresh voices" to challenge the power structure.

Jamie was born and raised in the Downtown Eastside. She attended Strathcona elementary and Britannia secondary schools.